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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 5 APRIL 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED RESPECTIVELY TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, and in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, I have the honour to bring the following to your attention.

After midnight and in the early morning hours of 5 April 1992, bands of armed and organized terrorist mercenaries launched an operation from the territory of the Republic of Iraq against Beshkan and Bayani villages (3436 N, 4546 E), two civilian centres inside the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In this cowardly act, they murdered 4 civilians, wounded 7 others and kidnapped several more people. On many previous occasions, the same mercenary terrorist group had carried out similar cowardly attacks from Iraqi territory against Iranian border civilian centres.

At 0720 hours of 5 April 1992, the Islamic Republic of Iran, in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, took necessary and proportionate measures in exercise of its legitimate right of self-defence in response to the armed attack. Fighter jets of the Islamic Republic Air Force raided the military headquarters of the terrorist group from which the earlier armed incursion into Iranian territory and a number of similar ones in the past had originated. The operation lasted 52 minutes and has now been terminated. In the course of the Iranian exercise of its right of self-defence, an Iranian aircraft crashed and its two crew members were captured. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has already communicated to the Government of Iraq that Iraq bears full responsibility for the well-being and immediate return of them in accordance with international law.

Furthermore, today, the same terrorist organization headquartered in Iraq, in what is certainly coordinated with its earlier armed incursion, attacked several Iranian diplomatic missions abroad, including the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, violating the premises, injuring officials, taking hostages and damaging property.

The Islamic Republic of Iran had, on numerous occasions, informed the Iraqi authorities that it cannot allow this group of organized armed mercenary terrorists to carry out military operations from Iraqi territory, endangering the lives of Iranian citizens in the border areas. The Government of Iraq had also been reminded of Iran's legitimate right of self-defence in response to such incursions by armed bands, which constitute acts of aggression for which the Government of Iraq bears full responsibility.

The Islamic Republic of Iran does not seek any hostility with Iraq and has already reiterated to the Government of Iraq its respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the latter, while reserving its inherent right to take action in self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter.

It would be highly appreciated if this letter were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kamal KHARRAZI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative